

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 DHA-02

SAJ-01 /072 W

-----161304Z 062942 /45

R 161213Z FEB 77

FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1579

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

USNAVCOMMSTA LONDONDERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 054

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, UK, EI

SUBJECT: NORTHERN IRELAND REACTIONS TO ALLEGED IRISH
POLICE BRUTALITY

REF: BELFAST 050

1. IRISH TIMES ALLEGATIONS OF BRUTALITY PRACTICED BY
"HEAVY GANG" OF INTERROGATORS IN GARDA SIOCHANA GIVEN
CONSIDERABLE PROMINENCE IN NORTHERN IRELAND MEDIA. ALL
JOURNALS REFER TO STRASBOURG HEARINGS IN CONTEXT IRONY OF
SITUATION. REACTIONS MADE MORE POINTED BY ARTICLE IN
BELFAST NEWS LETTER FEBRUARY 12 PICKED UP BY SUNDAY
"OBSERVER" FEBRUARY 13. ARTICLE ALLEGED SEVERAL AGENTS
FROM "GERMANY AND EIRE" HAD APPROACHED LOYALIST WELFARE
GROUP EAST ANTRIM SEEKING INFORMATION ABOUT PRACTICES
ROYAL ULSTER CONSTABULARY. INTENT OF "AGENTS" SUPPOSEDLY
TO BUILD CASE AGAINST POLICE FOR PRESENTATION STRASBOURGH.
2. THREE NORTHERN IRELAND RC PRIESTS INCLUDING FATHER DENIS
FAUL MADE STATEMENT FEBRUARY 15 THAT THEY HAD RECEIVED COMPLAINTS
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AGAINST GARDAI OVER MANY MONTHS BUT THAT THEIR REQUESTS FOR
IMPARTIAL INVESTIGATIONS HAD BEEN MET WITH "BLUNT DENIALS"
THAT THERE SUBSTANCE TO COMPLAINTS. PRIESTS ALSO PROTESTED
REPORTING OF NEWS IN WHICH "BBC LONDON AND BBC NORTHERN IRELAND
ARE PUTTING OUT THE MESSAGE THAT ALLEGATIONS ARE NOW BEING
MADE THAT THE GARDAI ARE USING THE TECHNIQUES OF SENSORY
DEPRIVATIONTHE TRUTH IS THAT COMPALINTS AGAINST THE

GARDAI ARE THAT THEY ARE USING THE KINDS OF TORTURE AND BRUTALITY WHICH ARE STILL GOING ON IN NORTHERN IRELAND. THE PUBLIC SHOULD KNOW THAT EVERY DAY IN CASTLEREAGH, CRUMLIN ROAD, STRAND ROAD, DERRY, OMAGH, ARMAGH, LURGAN AND IN MANY OTHER PLACES, MEMBERS OF THE RUC ARE BRUTALISING ARRESTED PERSONS."

3. BELFAST ORANGE ORDER LEADER THOMAS PASSMORE SAID
".....DUBLIN'S SKIES ARE DARKENED BY THE CLOUD OF STRASBOURG CHICKENS COMING HOME TO ROOST." DEMOCRATIC UNIONIST AND UNITED ULSTER UNIONIST MOVEMENT SPOKESMEN PURSUED THEMES THAT BRITISH AND IRISH GOVERNMENTS WOULD NOT HASTEN TO BRING UP ALLEGATIONS AGAINST GARDAI AT STRASBOURG.

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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